

LABOR MARKET TRENDS



Latest
Unemployment Rate

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S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

LMI Division

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Employment Falls Severely In Effort To Contain Pandemic; Unemployment Rate Rises Sharply

Employment: The seasonally adjusted monthly survey of households referencing the week of April 12th estimated the number of South Carolinians working fell to 2,089,889, which yields an employment-population ratio of 50.8 percent.

- That is an decrease of 238,913 people over March 2020.
- That is also a significant decrease of 203,982 people over April 2019.

Unemployment: Unemployment increased to 288,022 people.

- That is an increase of 211,653 people since March 2020 and a significant increase of 210,351 over April 2019.
- The state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 12.1 percent over the month from March’s rate of 3.2 percent.

Labor force: The state’s estimated labor force (people working plus people not working but looking for work) decreased to 2,377,911.

- That is an decrease of 27,260 people since March 2020.
- That is an increase of 6,369 individuals over April 2019.
- The labor force participation rate in April 2020 was 57.8 percent, decreasing from 58.6 percent in March.

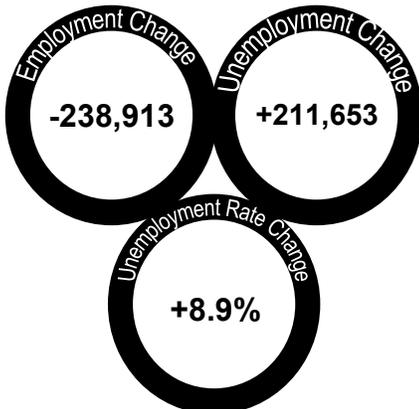
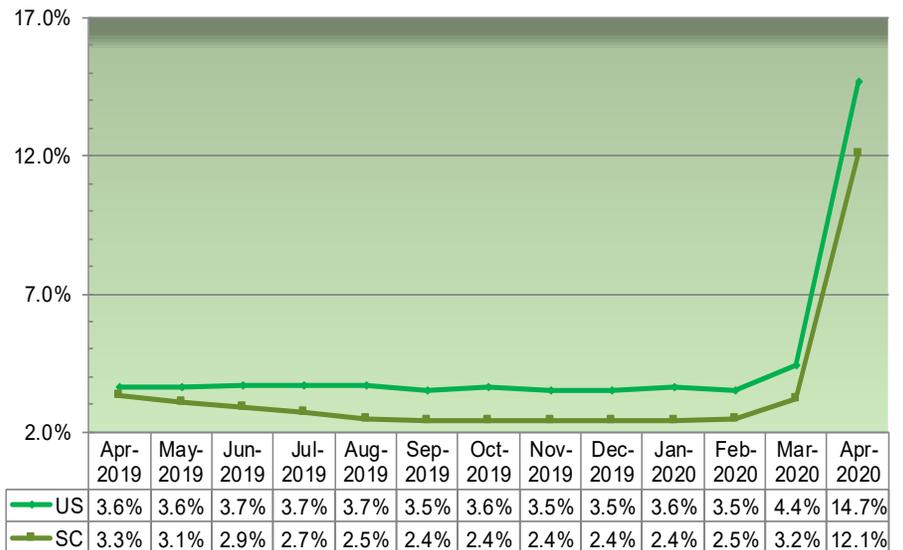
View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Economic Indicators

April 2020 - Seasonally Adjusted

	U.S.	S.C.
Labor Force	156,481,000	2,377,911
Employed	133,403,000	2,089,889
Unemployed	23,078,000	288,022
Unemployed Rate	14.7%	12.1%

South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
April 2019 - April 2020



LABOR MARKET TRENDS is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics by the LMI Division of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. The current month’s estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2019 benchmark. To subscribe to **LABOR MARKET TRENDS** or for additional information, please email LMICustomerService@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [LMI Customer Feedback Form](#).

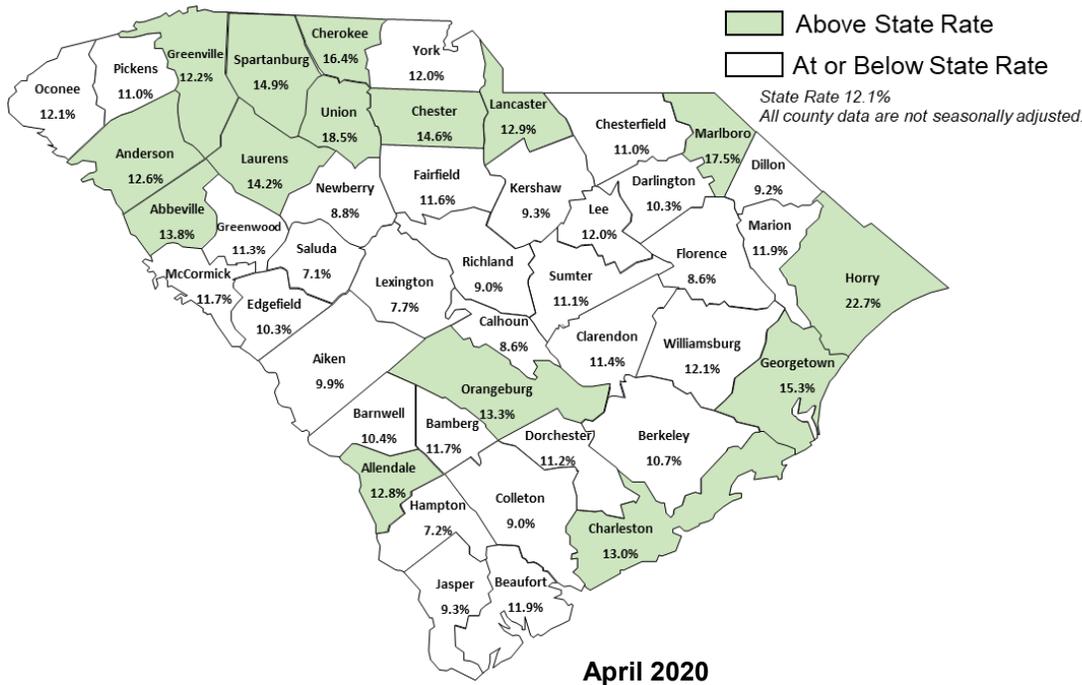
U.S. Unemployment Rates Vault Higher In April; S.C. Rate Rises To 12.1 Percent, Ranked 21st Lowest In The Nation

Unemployment rates were higher in April in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Similarly, all 50 states and the District of Columbia had jobless rate increases from a year earlier. The national unemployment rate rose by 10.3 percentage points over the month to 14.7 percent, while South Carolina's unemployment rate rose to 12.1 percent, ranking 21st lowest of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nonfarm payroll employment decreased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia in April 2020. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The largest job declines occurred in California (-2,324,000), New York (-1,904,900) and Texas (-1,110,600). The largest percentage declines occurred in Michigan (-23.0 percent), Vermont (-21.5 percent) and New York (-19.4 percent).

April Unemployment Rates By County

County unemployment rates climbed across the state as the not seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate rose to 12.2 percentage point in April from 3.0 percent in March. Rates ranged from a low of 7.1 percent in Saluda County to a high of 22.7 percent in Horry County.



State	Rate (%)
Connecticut	7.9
Minnesota	8.1
Nebraska	8.3
North Dakota	8.5
Wyoming	9.2
Missouri	9.7
Utah	9.7
Maryland	9.9
Arkansas	10.2
Iowa	10.2
South Dakota	10.2
Maine	10.6
Virginia	10.6
District of Columbia	11.1
Kansas	11.2
Colorado	11.3
Montana	11.3
New Mexico	11.3
Idaho	11.5
Georgia	11.9
South Carolina	12.1
North Carolina	12.2
Arizona	12.6
Texas	12.8
Alabama	12.9
Alaska	12.9
Florida	12.9
Oklahoma	13.7
Wisconsin	14.1
Oregon	14.2
Delaware	14.3
Louisiana	14.5
New York	14.5
Tennessee	14.7
United States	14.7
Massachusetts	15.1
Pennsylvania	15.1
West Virginia	15.2
New Jersey	15.3
Kentucky	15.4
Mississippi	15.4
Washington	15.4
California	15.5
Vermont	15.6
New Hampshire	16.3
Illinois	16.4
Ohio	16.8
Indiana	16.9
Rhode Island	17.0
Hawaii	22.3
Michigan	22.7
Nevada	28.2

	United States (SA)	Monthly Change	S.C. (Unadj.)	Monthly Change
Manufacturing				
Avg Weekly Earnings	\$1,114.91	-\$29.62	\$821.75	-\$76.11
Avg Weekly Hours	38.3	-2.1	37.2	-4.6
Avg Hourly Wages	\$29.11	\$0.78	\$22.09	\$0.61

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends For April—Seasonally Adjusted

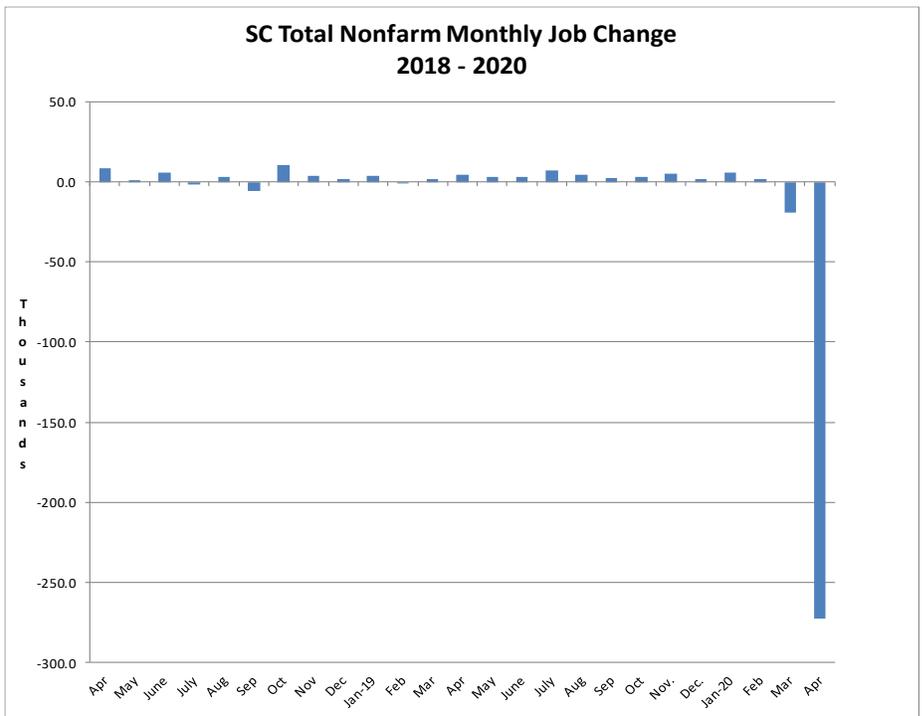
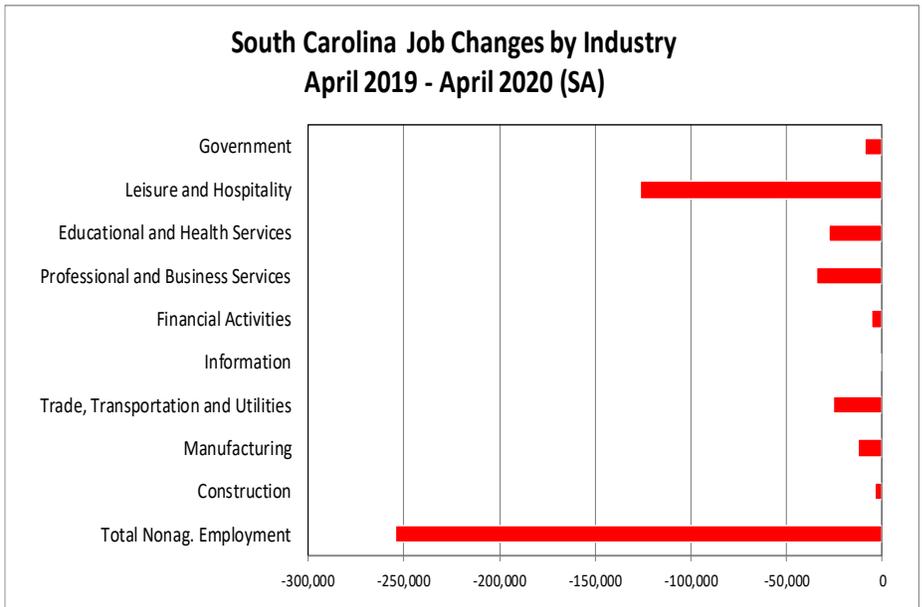
The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked a decrease of 272,700 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 1,925,000.

No industries reported gains. Decreases were noticed in the Leisure and Hospitality (-125,300); Professional and Business Services (-40,700); Education and Health Services (-28,900); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-27,900); Government (-16,300); Manufacturing (-12,900); Other Services (-9,200); Construction (-6,100); Financial Activities (-4,900) and Information (-400) industry. Retail Trade declined 20,300.

From April 2019 to April 2020, South Carolina’s economy has lost 254,600 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

No industries reported gains over the year. Decreases were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-126,500); Professional and Business Services (-34,000); Education and Health Services (-27,700); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-25,600); Manufacturing (-12,600); Other Services (-9,200); Government (-9,100); Financial Activities (-5,700); Construction (-3,600) and Information (-500). Retail Trade declined 17,300.

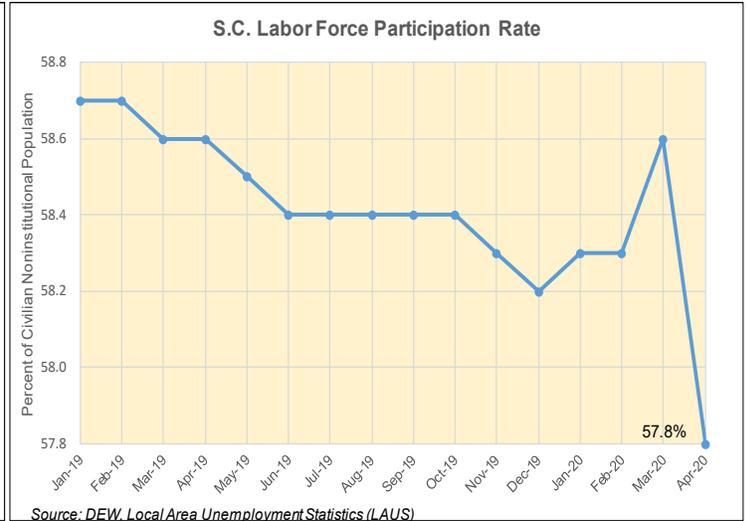
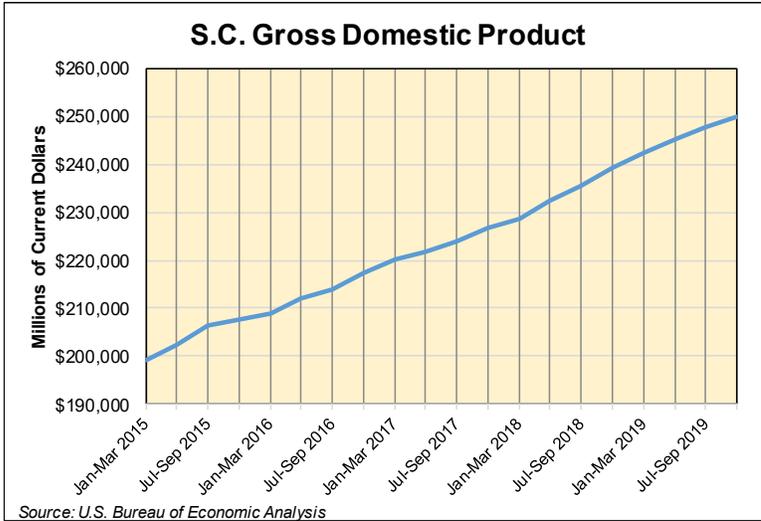
For the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll job decreases were seen in all areas.



Economic Indicators (April 2020)		
Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)		
	Over Month %	Over Year %
	Change	Change
Sumter MSA	-7.75%	-7.29%
Greenville MSA	-10.12%	-10.16%
Florence MSA	-10.13%	-10.62%
Columbia MSA	-10.46%	-9.59%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to www.SCWorkforceInfo.com (Employment and Wage Data section)

South Carolina Economic Indicators



S.C. Job Postings by Industry, April 2020

NAICS Code	Industry	Job Postings
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	9,527
44-45	Retail Trade	6,973
72	Accommodation and Food Services	2,888
31-33	Manufacturing	2,713
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,638
61	Educational Services	2,511
52	Finance and Insurance	2,258
92	Public Administration	2,224
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management	1,330
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	1,162
23	Construction	851
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	600
51	Information	549
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	527
42	Wholesale Trade	346
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	212
22	Utilities	104
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	70
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	61
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	39

Source: Labor Insight Jobs (Burning Glass Technologies)

S.C. Average Weekly Wage by Industry Group, 2019Q3

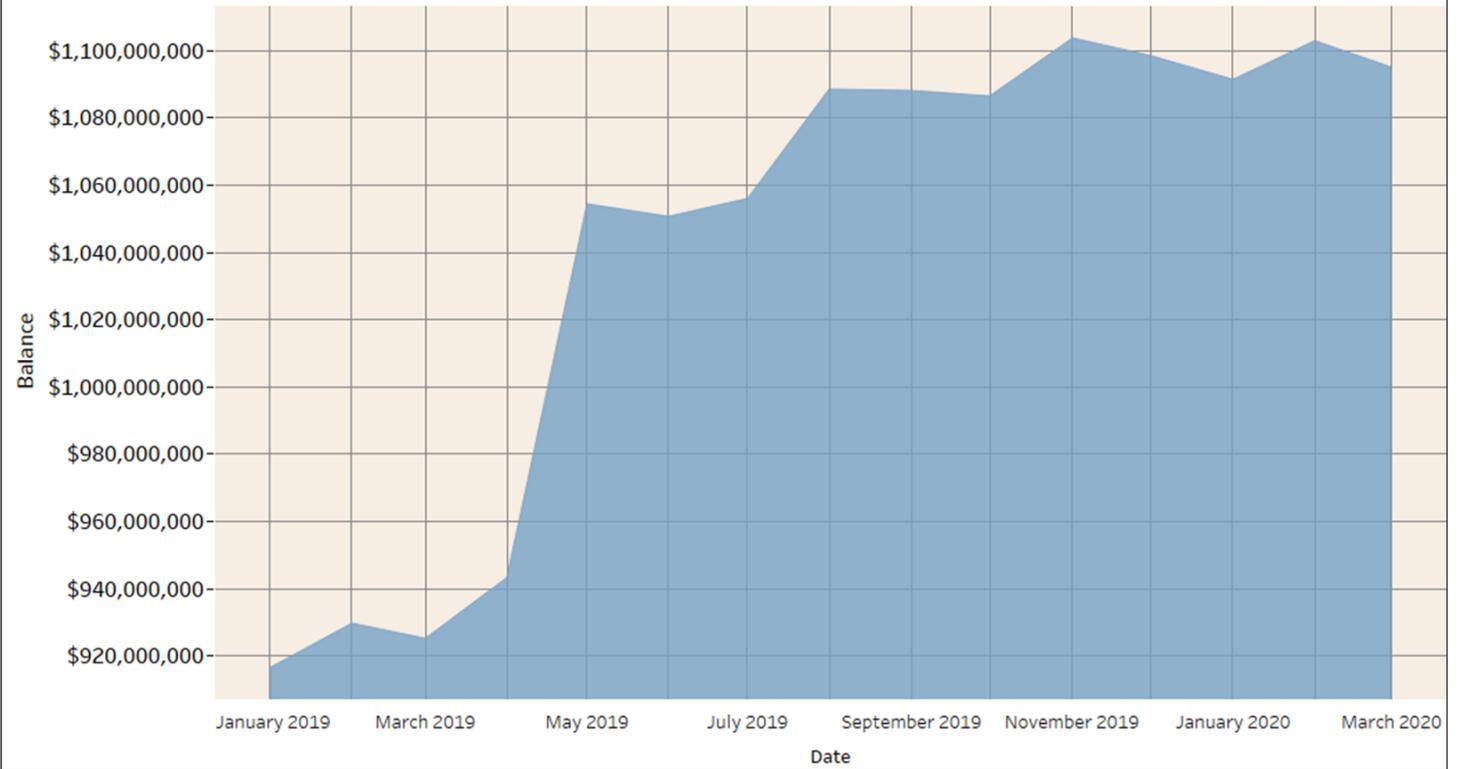
Industry Group	Avg Wkly Wage	Perc Chg from Yr Ago
Total, All Industries	\$866	3.6%
Natural Resources and Mining	\$828	9.7%
Construction	\$1,033	5.5%
Manufacturing	\$1,116	2.3%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	\$780	4.1%
Information	\$1,167	5.8%
Financial Activities	\$1,150	3.5%
Professional and Business Services	\$969	4.2%
Education and Health Services	\$940	3.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	\$367	4.6%
Other Services	\$650	3.5%
Public Administration	\$912	3.1%

Source: DEW, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

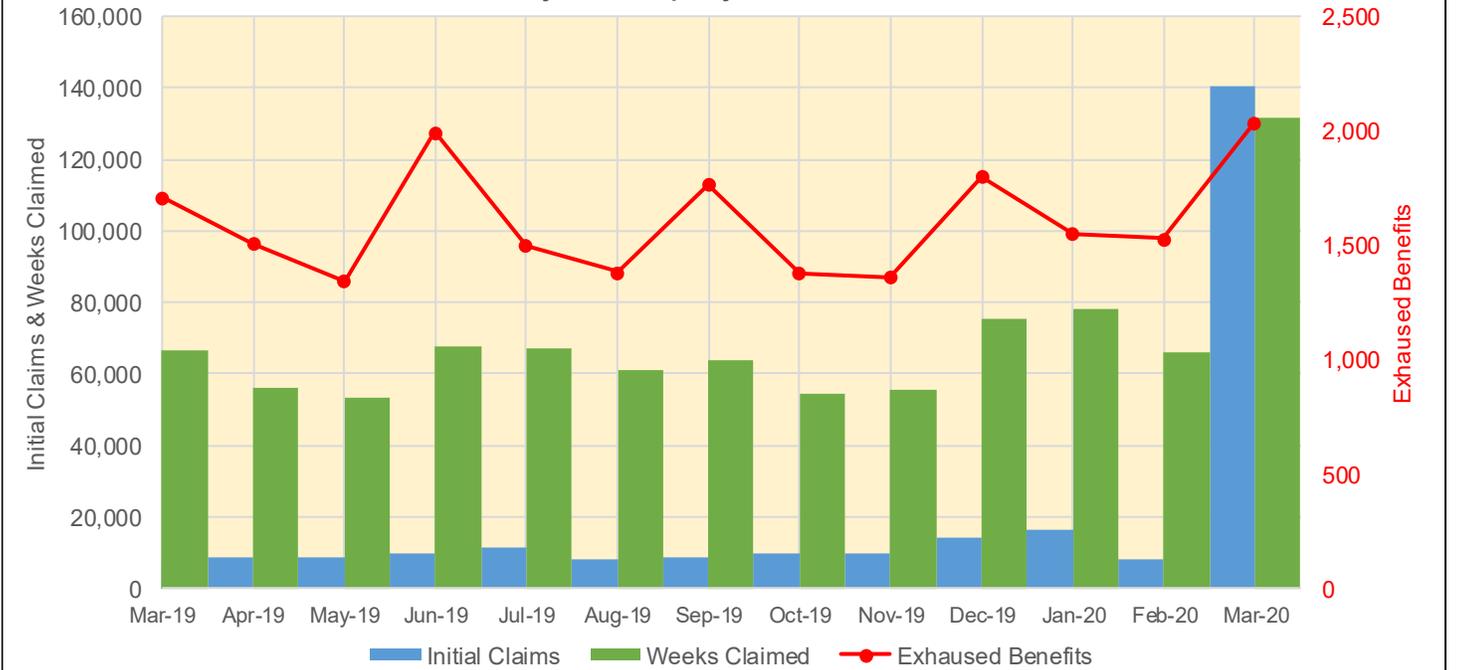
South Carolina Economic Indicators (Continued)

S.C. Unemployment Trust Fund Balance

Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service



S.C. Monthly Unemployment Claims Statistics



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

SCDEW Recent Media Release Excerpts**Employment and Workforce Executive Director Dan Ellzey's Statement****April 2020 Employment Situation**

“While South Carolina’s high unemployment rate is shocking compared to the record lows we recently enjoyed, I am sure that this news isn’t a surprise to anyone. As the unemployment rate has increased dramatically to 12.1%, it is significantly less than the U.S. rate of 14.7%. This unemployment level reflects our state’s careful, planned response to the COVID-19 pandemic in April.

“Our agency has a dual role under the umbrella of managing and supporting both employment and workforce through good times and bad, and we will continue to intensify our efforts to support the state.”

South Carolina Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims Data**Week Ending May 16, 2020**

Initial Claims: For claim week ending May 16, 2020, the number of South Carolinians who filed their initial claim for unemployment insurance benefits is 29,446, a decrease of 3,067 initial claims from the week prior. This means that there were 29,446 individuals, who both live and work in the state of South Carolina, filed an initial claim during the claim week, May 10, 2020 – May 16, 2020.

“Throughout the duration of this crisis, our priority is processing claims and backdating payments appropriately. We want to reassure all claimants that if and when they are found eligible, critical payments will be paid to them. Since the pandemic began in March of this year, we have received 515,595 initial claims for unemployment and paid out more than \$1.35 billion dollars. Additionally, we are close to launching our third and final federal program, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, which will be available to South Carolinians who exhaust their 20 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits and are still unemployed,” said Dan Ellzey, Executive Director, S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce.

“We are prepared to help both employers and claimants navigate the unemployment system during and as they transition back to work. These are trying times and it will take an all hands-on-deck approach from every single resident to reboot our state’s economy.”

Agency Responsiveness:

- From March 15, 2020 to May 19, 2020, the agency has paid more than \$1.35 billion in a combination of state UI benefits, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (for the self-employed and all others) and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (\$600 per week) program.
- Our call center staff is consistently answering more than 80,000 phone calls each week. We will continue to operate this week on an 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. schedule Monday – Friday. Saturday’s hours will be 8 a.m. – Noon. The number to call is 1-866-831-1724.
- The Chatbot feature on the dew.sc.gov website continues to improve thanks to your input. If you have FAQ type questions about the UI process, federal funds provided through the CARES Act, employer filing, etc., we ask you to try the Chatbot before calling to avoid the wait.